

jurisdictions would be stupid enough to be Conservatives. There is a good reason for this.

In the city of Windsor, all one has to do is go up and down Ouellette Avenue, a reminder of the historic French connection of the city of Windsor, and one will see a great many restaurants and stores which are closed because they no longer have the significant American clientele that they previously had, primarily because of the increase in the value of the dollar. But every one of them anticipate that with the introduction of the GST, there will be a further erosion of the attractiveness of Windsor as a place where Americans will shop and entertain themselves.

If one stands at the entrance of the Detroit—Windsor tunnel or if one stands at the entrance to the Ambassador Bridge on the weekend, one will see thousands of Canadians going across the river to make their purchases. Because our dollar is so high in its value in equivalence to the American dollar people can save a great deal of money going across the river. Many Canadians are losing business. Now they have to anticipate the GST.

I would tell the member for Ontario that in Windsor 80 per cent of the population is against this tax because they understand this tax. I myself am involved in a coalition with labour and most of the significant business leaders in Windsor in opposition to this Conservative inequity. To have the member for Ontario stand up in this House and suggest on the basis of an editorial from *The Windsor Star* that somehow we have seen the light that would have us enter into hell and support this GST is to abuse this House and abuse the truth in a fashion that is beyond toleration.

• (1620)

Mr. Soetens: Madam Speaker, it really is a pleasure to see that there are some members in Windsor who understand that manufacturing is important to them. Unfortunately, it is not the members who have been elected to serve in this House because I have just listened to that rhetoric.

My riding is right beside Oshawa, and Oshawa has a very heavy automotive presence much like Windsor. I can tell you that in my constituency, they understand the benefit that the manufacturers will gain out of the elimination of the federal sales tax. They understand

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that the price of automobiles in Canada will come down because of the elimination of the federal sales tax. They understand that when the price of cars comes down in Canada, more jobs are created in Canada.

I find it disturbing that members here in this House do not fully understand that. And because someone in Windsor has seen the light, I guess all I would encourage this member to do is to read the article. It states very clearly:

On the GST—Why should the workers of our manufacturing industry carry the burden of this tax on their shoulders? Why not lower the tax to seven per cent and let those who make a living off the people who work in manufacturing industries share the burden.

I think it is time that you people from Windsor got with it and let the manufacturing sector in this country do what it is supposed to be doing.

Mr. Althouse: Madam Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member for Ontario would just go over his argument once again please.

It seems to me that he has just told us that the manufacturing sector in Windsor will be a beneficiary of the sales tax. I cannot understand how that will happen unless it raises its prices.

By the time that new car gets out to my particular part of the country—we have had automobile dealers work out the actual figures, if they take the same mark-up for handling and selling that automobile that they are used to—the price to the consumer stays exactly the same if the manufacturer does not increase his price. So if the manufacturer does not raise his price as the car leaves the factory, how is he going to be better off? If the consumer in my part of Canada has to pay at least as much for the car under GST as under the manufacturers' sales tax, why will there be more customers and where will there be more customers? How can they be better off if the price stays the same and the demand stays virtually the same?

Mr. Soetens: Madam Speaker, I would be happy to answer that. In fact, we had lots of witnesses appear in front of the finance committee representing Canadian automobile dealers and they very clearly talked about the reduction in the price of cars. Those dealers do not represent just dealers in Oshawa or in my constituency of Ontario, they represent dealers across Canada. Simply put, the price of a car leaving the plant will have only a 7